

Message Text

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ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SCA-01 PPTE-00 /012 W

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R 292150Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6637

INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY G GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 1242

E.O9 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC

SUBJECT: ENTRY OF US CITIZENS INTO COSTA RICA

REF: STATE 056953 AND MANAGUA 865

1) US CITIZENS ENTERING COSTA RICA ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE EITHER A COSTA RICAN VISA OR A TOURIST CARD ISSUED BY A COSTA RICAN DIPLOMATIC OR CONSULAR OFFICER ABROAD.

2) TOURIST CARDS ARE ISSUED BY AIRLINE OFFICIALS AT AIRPORTS OR OTHER DEPARTURE POINTS SUCH AS BUS TERMINALS. COSTA RICAN VISAS ARE ISSUED TO THE TRAVELER ONLY IF HE IS THE BEARER OF A PASSPORT HOWEVER COSTA RICAN TOURIST CARDS ARE ISSUED ON THE BASIS OF PRESENTATION OF PROOF OF US CITIZENSHIP I.E. BIRTH REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE.

3) TOURIST CARDS ARE ISSUED ONLY TO AIR TRAVELERS AND ARE NOT INTENDED FOR OVERLAND TRAVELERS ALTHOUGH THESE ARE OCASSIONALLY ISSUED AT BORDERS WHEN OVERLAND TRAVELERS ARRIVE THERE WITH NO OTHER ENTRY PERMIT.

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4) COSTA RICAN AUTHORITIES REQUIRE THE TRAVELER

TO BE IN POSSESSION OF EITHER ONWARD TRANSPORTATION
OR ROUND TRIP TICKET PRIOR TO ISSUANCE OF
VISA OR TOURIST CARD. IN OTHER WORDS AN AMERICAN
TRAVELER MUST EITHER HAVE A ROUND TRIP TICKET
OR A ONE WAY TICKET TO COSTA RICA AND ANOTHER
TICKET FOR TRAVEL EITHER PANAMA OR NICARAGUA.
AT TIMES THEY ALSO REQUEST PROOF THAT THE
TRAVELER IS IN POSSESSION OF SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO
DEFRAY EXPENSES DURING THEIR STAY.

5) NICARAGUAN AND PANAMANIAN CONSULARS OFFICIALS
IN COSTA RICA REQUIRE THAT US CITIZENS
TRAVELLING OVERLAND TO THEIR RESPECTIVE
COUNTRIES MUST BE HOLDERS OF VALID US PASSPORTS
IN ORDER TO ISSUE VISAS. AT TIMES THEY ALSO
REQUEST PROOF THAT THE TRAVELER IS IN POSSESSION
OF SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO DEFRAY EXPENSES DURING
THEIR STAY.

6) THIS EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT ALL US CITIZENS
TRAVELLING TO COSTA RICA OVERLAND MUST BE IN
POSSESSION OF A VALID US PASSPORT.
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